accorded Priority-I along with the retrenched employees of the Government. Further upto 2 members each of the families of Defence Service Personnel killed or severely disabled, whether during war or peace time, are given priority immediately below the disabled ex-servicemen i. e. Priority IIA. Disabled Defence Service Personnel are also eligible for relaxation in age and educational qualifications.

(b) The following number of Dis abled Soldiers were given employ ment during the last 3 years: —

1987	1988	1989
290	89	54

(c) Re-employment of Disabled ex-Servicemen is a continuing process. Since there number is not static and as the employment process is handled by various Central Government De partments, Public Sector Undertak ings, State Governments etc., based on the number of available vacancies, no specific time frame for their re employment can be laid down.

Unused forest land in Andhra Pradesh

3134. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large area of forest land in Andhra Pra desh i$_s$ lying unused;

(b) if so, the estimated area of forest land in Andhra Pradesh, and out of it the estimated area lying unused;

(c) whether Government have chalked out the programme; for utilisation of unused forest land, if so, the details thereof;

(d) if reply to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any financial help/ grant would be provided to the State Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILA-MANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) As per the studies conducted by Forest Survey of India using Satellite imageries, out of the recorded forest of 6. 37 M. ha. of Andhra Pradesh the area under actual forest cover is 4. 79 M. ha. giving a degraded area of 1. 58 -M. ha,

(c) to (e) It is proposed to reaffor-est 9 M. ha. of degraded forest land during Eight Five Year plan in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

Involvement of private sector in Defence production

3135. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) is it true that private sector is sought to be involved in taking up production of defence items under the indigenisation scheme;

(b) if yes, what steps are being taken in this direction-

(c) what role is being assigned to the small scale sector under the scheme; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The capacity available in the civil sector industry including the private sector is already being utilised for the indigenous development of defence items.

(b) The steps taken in this direction are (i) capacity verification; (ii) providing technical information relating to the items to be developed; (iii) placement of *ab initio* developmental orders and providing technical guidance right through the stage of development upto submission of *prolo types* and their evaluation; (iv) advances are also given in some deserving cases.

(c) and (d) Small scale industrial units are also considered for development of items which fall within their capacity. The participation of small scale industry in the *ab initio* developmental contracts value-wise is between 20 to 30 per cent.

Small arms and ammunitions manufactured by Ordnance Factories

313B. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of small arms and ammunitions being manufactured by Ordnance Factories;

(b) whether there is a proposal to increase production of these arms and supply these to the Ministry of Home Affairs, State Governments and also to sell in the open market;

(c) if so, whether some study has been conducted as to how much would be the demand; and ;

(d) if so what are the details/estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Details of small arms and ammunitions being manufactured in Ordnance Factories, are given in the enclosed statement. (See below)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Information asked for being of a classified nature, it will not be in public interest to disclose it.

Statement

Small Arms.

1. Gun Machine 7. 62 mm IB (New)
2. Gun Machine 7. 62 mm MAG
3. Sub Machine Gun 9 mm Carbine 1A1
4. Sub Machine Gun 9 mm Carbine 2A1 (SL)
5. 12 Bore DBBL Short Gun.
6. . 32" Revolver.
7. Rifle 7. 62 mm 1A1 (SLR)
8. Rifle **7. 62** mm IC
9. Pistol Auto 9 mm. Small

Arm Ammunitions

1. Cartridge 7. 62 mm Type HD; BDR, CTN, Tracer M-62, Blank LA, NATO Ball M-80.
2. Cartridge 9 mm Type Tracer, Ball,
3. Cartridge 0. 22" Type RF Ball.
4. Cartridge 0. 22" Type RF Tracer.
5. Cartridge 0. 50" Spotter**.**
6. Cartridge 0. 50" RMG.

Returning of decorations by IPKF Officers

3137. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a iact that some IPKF officers had returned the de corations in protest against wide spread criticism of the role of IPKF in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of such IPKF officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) One Army officer, Lt. Gen. S. C Sardesh-Pande, Since retired who had served in the IPKF had returned to the Army HQrs, in April 1990 his Uttam Yuddh Seva Medal which was conferred on him in January 1989, He did this in the context of the criticism in Tamil Nadu of the role of the IPKF in Sri Lanka. Since there is no provision for returning of such awards, the medal was handed back to the General Officer.

Ban on institutions not empowered to Award iDegrees

3138. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1566 given in the Rajya Sa-bha on the 21st August, 1990 and